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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/059,093	01/28/2002	Michael Wayne Brown	AUS920010513US1	5382
7590	09/08/2004		EXAMINER	ZHOU, TING
Marilyn Smith Dawkins International Business Machines Corporation Intellectual Property Law Dept. Internal Zip 4054 11400 Burnet Road Austin, TX 78758			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173				
DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/059,093	BROWN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ting Zhou	2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/28/02, 4/10/02.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-12, 14-15, 17-20 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hall, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent 5,805,166.

Referring to claims 1, 9 and 17, Hall, Jr. et al. teach a method, system and program comprising a graphical user interface (column 1, lines 6-10 and column 4, lines 17-35), determining a usage status for at least one resource utilized by a computer system (determining the status of at least one icon associated with resources such as the computer, modem, server, etc., and displaying the associated status line adjacent the icon) (column 5, lines 12-34 and Figures 2A-2B), and responsive to detecting a window displayed within a user interface in association with a particular system element from among a plurality of system elements, adjusting a shading of a preexisting window element within the window to indicate the usage status of the at least one resource as utilized by the particular system element, such that a display area for specifying the usage of the at least one resource avoids utilizing additional screen real estate for creating a status indicator (upon detecting the display of a status window on the display screen with a plurality of icons, the color of the segmented status lines can be changed to indicate the

Art Unit: 2173

usage status of an associated icon; furthermore, as shown in Figure 4A, the segmented status lines are a part of the status window and are displayed adjacent the plurality of icons and frames the border of the displayed status window screen so that no additional windows need to be displayed to convey this status information; thus, the amount of display area utilized to display status information is reduced) (column 2, lines 20-49, lines 66-67 and column 5, lines 11-64).

Referring to claims 2, 10 and 18, Hall, Jr. et al. teach determining the usage status for at least one resource comprising at least one from among a software element, a hardware element and a network element (displaying the color changes in the segmented status lines for icons representing resources such as the computer, modem, server, signal strength, etc.) (column 4, lines 60-67 through column 5, lines 1-11 and column 5, lines 58-62 ; this is further shown in Figures 2A-2B).

Referring to claims 3, 11 and 19, Hall, Jr. et al. teach detecting the window displayed within the user interface in association with a particular system element from among a plurality of system elements, wherein the plurality of system elements comprise at least one from among a software element, a hardware element, and a network element (the user can select a particular segment from among the plurality of status segments displayed on the status window, each of the plurality of status segments can represent components such as the computer, modem, server, etc.) (column 7, lines 38-47, column 9, lines 38-55 and further shown in Figures 2A-2B).

Referring to claims 4, 12 and 20, Hall, Jr. et al. teach detecting the window displayed within the user interface in association with a particular system element from among a plurality of system elements, wherein the window is open within the user

Art Unit: 2173

interface (the user can select a particular segment from among the plurality of status segment lines shown on the open status window, to display detailed information or icons associated with the particular segment) (column 7, lines 38-47 and column 9, lines 38-54).

Referring to claims 6, 14 and 22, Hall, Jr. et al. teach adjusting a transparent image overlay within the window element to indicate usage status (adjusting the color, or gray-scale value of the segmented status lines or flashing the segmented status lines to indicate usage status) (column 5, lines 41-64).

Referring to claims 7, 15 and 23, Hall, Jr. et al. teach adjusting a transparent image overlay in a gradient increasing in a particular direction to indicate usage status (adjusting the color, or gray-scale value of the segmented status lines or flashing the segmented status lines to indicate usage status; for example, the segments representing signal strength can increase in a particular direction such as increasing from red to green, going through different shades of yellow in between) (column 5, lines 41-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2173

2. Claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent 5,805,166, as applied to claims 1, 9 and 17 above, and Torres et al. U.S. Patent 5,550,969.

Referring to claims 5, 13 and 21, Hall, Jr. et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 1, 9 and 17 above. Specifically, Hall, Jr. et al. teach detecting the window displayed within the user interface in association with a particular system element from among a plurality of system elements (the user can select a particular segment from among the plurality of status segment lines shown on the status window, to display detailed information or icons associated with the particular segment) (Hall, Jr. et al.: column 7, lines 38-47 and column 9, lines 38-54). However, Hall, Jr. et al. fail to explicitly teach the window is minimized within the user interface. Torres et al. teach a user interface which displays indicators (displaying marker icons indicating the positions of user selected items) (Torres et al.: column 1, lines 53-59 and Figure 3) similar to that of Hall, Jr. et al. In addition, Torres et al. further teach the ability for windows displaying indicator icons to be minimized (Torres et al.: column 2, lines 54-64). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hall, Jr. et al. and Torres et al. before him at the time the invention was made , to modify the interface for detecting displayed windows associated with a particular system element of Hall, Jr. et al. to include the minimized windows of Torres et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to conserve screen space to allow more information to be viewed on the display screen.

Referring to claims 8, 16 and 24, Hall, Jr. et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 1, 9 and 17 above. Specifically, Hall, Jr. et al. teach adjusting a shading

Art Unit: 2173

of a preexisting window element (adjusting the color of the segmented status lines, which are preexisting parts of the status window) (column 5, lines 11-30). However, Hall, Jr. et al. fail to explicitly teach the preexisting window element comprises at least one from among a title bar, a scroll bar, a frame handle, and a minimized window. Torres et al. teach a user interface which displays indicators on preexisting window elements (displaying marker icons indicating the positions of user selected items on the scroll bar) (Torres et al.: column 1, lines 53-59 and Figure 3) similar to that of Hall, Jr. et al. In addition, Torres et al. further teach the preexisting window element being the window's scroll bar (Torres et al.: column 1, lines 53-67 and column 3, lines 38-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hall, Jr. et al. and Torres et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface for displaying status information of Hall, Jr. et al. to include the display of information on the scroll bar, as taught by Torres et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow the user to know where the selections are with respect to the current window view; thus, without using any additional screen space, the users can constantly be aware of information related to an object, such as user selection, even when the objects have been scrolled out of sight.

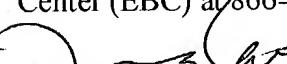
3. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar methods of displaying status indicators on the display.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (703) 305-0328. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
18 August 2004